

## CHAPTER XII

### THE TRANSFORMATION WROUGHT BY THE IMPACT OF THE OCCIDENT

THE CRUMBLING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD  
CHINESE  
CULTURE AND FORESHADOWINGS OF THE NEW  
(A.D. 1894-1933)

-I RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, 1871-1893

THE decades of comparative quiet and security which followed the foreign wars and rebellions of the middle of the century were rudely terminated by a contest with a near neighbor, Japan. The defeat which the Empire then suffered was followed by the renewed aggression of Western powers and by internal changes which proved momentous.

During the seventeenth, the eighteenth, and the early part of the twentieth century, Japan had been even more nearly closed against intercourse with the Occident than had China. In 1853, shortly after the first war between China and Great Britain, the famous American expedition led by Commodore Perry entered the Bay of Yedo, and the opening of Japan to more extensive contact with the Occident followed. Much more quickly than the Chinese, the Japanese saw the necessity of adjusting themselves to intercourse with the Occident. By 1894 they had taken remarkable strides toward the reorganization of the entire structure of their life. Among those who rapidly rose to leadership were men who early sensed the fact that the entire world was being dominated by the Occident and that, whether a nation liked it or not, if it

were to retain its political independence it must  
adopt the appli-  
ances which had given the West its power.  
Politically, the dual  
form of government and feudalism were abolished, a  
constitution  
modeled partly after that of Prussia was adopted,  
and an army  
and a navy of Western type were built.  
Intellectually, a school